

Editorial Comment

Society does not owe a living to any man. But most emphatically, each and every man owes the making of a living to society.

It is not safe to assume that increased basal metabolism is always, or usually, accompanied by a fast pulse rate. There is a connection, but exceptions are not infrequent.

It would doubtless serve a useful purpose if the State Medical Society had available, a circulating library of medical texts for the use of physicians in smaller towns and rural sections.

Do not forget Webster's definition of medicine as the prevention, cure and alleviation of disease. It is a definition which renders ridiculous the claims of the quacks, the cultists, and the faddists, that medicine means nothing but the administration of drugs.

The speed and promptitude which was evinced by many Eddyites this past winter in securing the protection of vaccination, was only exceeded by the silence maintained by others of the same persuasion, who contracted smallpox for lack of vaccination.

"On parent knees, a naked new-born child,
Weeping thou sat'st while all around thee smiled;
So live, that, sinking in thy last long sleep,
Thou then mayst smile, while all around thee weep."

—Calidasa, Sir Wm. Jones' translation.

Now is the time to keep yourself closely informed as to the attitude evinced in the Legislature by your own individual representatives, whom you helped elect to their present office. Let them know that you follow with care their votes on questions affecting the public health and scientific medicine. The number of doctors who pursue this course is rapidly increasing. See whether *you* are being represented or misrepresented.

Only the strongest reprobation can be accorded the use of so-called cancer cures at a high price at the present state of our knowledge. The doctors are being insulted as far as their intelligence is concerned, and impugned as far as their morals are concerned, by certain drug houses which are attempting to exploit cancer cures and commercialize false and misleading claims. The doctor or layman who has a "cancer cure" at a high price is to be looked on with suspicion, and needs to justify his existence in no uncertain language.

One is often tempted to believe that it is in reality a strange perversion of function that of all men, the physician, should have to be the one to watch and protect the public health against the unlicensed and unscrupulous commercialism of chiropractors, and quacks in general, who seek to

fatten off of the health and happiness of the people. One is tempted to wonder why the physician should not step down from his onerous and, too often, thankless post, and let the public have a full tide of quackery turned loose upon itself. The end would possibly justify the means.

The dental magazine, *Oral Hygiene*, is responsible for the following, "A chiropractor breaks loose with this,

"My dear Doctor:—In poisonous dentistry, quicksilver heads the list with about 300 symptoms. Amalgam fillings contain about 40 per cent. of quicksilver combined with tin, silver, copper, zinc, etc., increasing their galvanic and poisonous effects added to their own.

"Many dentists are afraid to handle amalgam as they used to do (mix it in the hollow of the hand) but use one of the various mixers in use and then place in the mouths of their best friends who furnish them with shelter, food, raiment, etc., a poisonous combination of base metals capable of causing their unsuspecting victims to literally rot alive and have the disgrace of having died of syphilis. Pseudotherapy, pseudosurgery, and poisonous dentistry are crippling the world; who will come to the rescue?"

KEEP THE TUBERCULOSIS POOR IN THEIR HOME STATE

The Denver Anti-Tuberculosis Society estimates that several hundred tuberculous persons without funds come to Denver every year. Practically all of them come because they have the mistaken idea that climate will cure tuberculosis.

They arrive, almost penniless, without having made any inquiries, or any provisions for their needs. Since Colorado has no state, and Denver no municipal tuberculosis sanatorium (merely a ward at the County Hospital for thirty-five very sick tuberculous residents), the care of such indigent persons is limited to a few free private sanatoria, which are continuously so overtaxed that admittance is a long and difficult matter. These sanatoria comprise: the two Jewish, which accept only a small number of Gentiles; a tent colony of men with a capacity for seventy "down-and-outers"; and a small home for a dozen destitute tuberculous women.

These tuberculous poor who migrate to Denver, finding no place where they can be cared for, look for light work in order to maintain themselves and often their dependent families; but the demand for such work is far in excess of the supply. Driven to any work they can get, with neither friends nor care, anxious, homesick, hopeless, they rapidly grow worse and usually soon die. They die for lack of proper rest, food, fresh air, and medical attention—those essentials of treatment which many of them could have had at home—or here with sufficient funds for two years' care. Without these essentials climate is of no avail. If it were, Denver would welcome these tragic health-seekers instead of urging them, for their own best chances, to stay at home.

Denver also urges that the states throughout the country plan definite programs to retain their indigent tuberculous, giving them effective treatment in state sanatoria or in their own homes.

In Minnesota a physician has been held liable for the death of a patient through administering impure ether. The Court held that it is the business of a physician to see that the ether used for anesthesia is obtained from a reliable source and is intended for that purpose.